

Friday, July 10, 2009
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(WASHINGTON) - The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing more than \$51 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to expand weatherization assistance programs in Missouri. These funds will help to weatherize more than 14,600 homes, cutting energy costs for low-income families that need it, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and creating clean-energy jobs.

"By weatherizing homes not only do families save on their utility bills, jobs within our own community will be created as energy audits are performed and weatherization practices are installed in homes," said Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3).

Today Missouri received 40 percent, \$51,259,211, of their total weatherization funding authorized under the Recovery Act. This installment adds to the initial 10 percent funding allocations that was awarded previously for training and planning activities.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Energy Center will administer these funds and will work with sixteen regional community action agencies, one city government, and one not-for-profit organization. Every home that receives weatherization assistance will also receive a final inspection to ensure that the work was completed properly.

"Recovery Act investments in weatherization projects that will soon reduce energy costs for families and create clean-energy jobs right here in America," said Carnahan. **"This is just one approach to the U.S. declaring its energy independence to stabilize the costs of energy for American families."**

Under the Recovery Act, Missouri may spend up to 20 percent of the funds to hire and train workers. The remaining 50 percent of funds will be released when Missouri meets reporting, oversight, and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act. After demonstrating successful implementation of its plan, the state will receive an additional \$64 million, for a total of over \$128 million.

DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program will be available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level - or about \$44,000 a year for a family of four. Weatherization projects allow low-income families to save money by making their homes more energy efficient, which results in average savings of 32 percent for heating bills and savings of hundreds of dollars per year on overall energy bills. On average \$6,500 will be spent to weatherize each

home.

The Recovery Act includes a strong commitment to oversight and accountability, while emphasizing the necessity of rapidly awarding funds to help create new jobs and stimulate local economies.

To inquire about assistance families are encouraged to contact DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program for Missouri:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources-Energy Center

Website: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/>

Phone: (800) 361-4827 / (573) 751-3443

In 2008, Carnahan co-founded the Congressional High Performance Buildings Caucus and has remained a leader in the area of promoting green building technologies in new and existing structures.

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